In memoriam:
William W. Bishop, Jr.

A favorite among students, a pioneer in his field

Professor Emeritus William W. Bishop, described by Dean Lee C. Bollinger as "a towering figure in international law as well as... an incredibly sweet man," died December 29, 1987 at the age of 81 of a heart attack.

"He was just adored by students," Bollinger said. "Students would always prepare for his class and always attend class because he was so kind and apologetic if he called on them and they weren’t prepared."

Bishop received his A.B. from the U-M in 1928 and his J.D. from the Law School in 1931. He devoted most of his academic career to the U-M, joining the law faculty in 1948. During his tenure, he was the co-director of the Law School’s international legal studies program, and received several honors, including the Distinguished Faculty Achievement Award in 1965. He served as the Edwin DeWitt Dickinson professor of Law from 1966 to 1976.

A pioneer in his field, Bishop was the author of the casebook International Law Cases and Materials, a landmark volume widely used since it first appeared in 1949.

Bishop married Mary Fairfax Shreve of Dunn Loring, VA, in 1947. After her death in 1979, he lived by himself but traveled frequently with tours sponsored by the U-M Alumni Association or with his daughter, and regularly attended concerts and U-M sports events. Bishop was a lifelong supporter of the Wolverine Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and actively pursued his interests in reading, walking, and bird-watching up until the time of his death.

Bishop is survived by his daughter, Dr. Elizabeth S. Bishop (of Ann Arbor and East Lansing, MI), cousins, and friends. Memorial contributions may be sent to the Law School Fund in his name.

A Tribute
by John H. Jackson

The following tribute is based on remarks presented at a memorial service held January 22 in the Lawyers Club, where Professor Jackson was one of several speakers.

We of the law faculty are sadly adjusting to the departure of our treasured colleague Bill Bishop. The Gothic premises of the Law School will seem emptier without Bill’s gothic presence, for surely he represented the values of the architecture around him—stability, solidness, uncompromising excellence, attention to detail, and a bit of “old-fashionedness” in the laudatory sense of that phrase.

It is hard to believe that Bill had been retired for 11 years. He remained incredibly active—teaching part time every year, and regularly coming to his Law School office to pursue
his research interests, (often in a tie and coat even in mid summer!). For many years Bill Bishop has been a central academic figure of international law in the United States. After more than a decade of practical experience, including a 1939-1947 period of service in the Legal Advisor's Office of the U.S. State Department partly as assistant legal advisor, Bill entered academic life, teaching at Pennsylvania and Columbia, then joining the University of Michigan faculty in 1948 for the remainder of his career. During much of this career he was the editor-in-chief of the American Journal of International Law, a position that gave him a world wide prominence and influence rarely matched in his subject area. He delivered the prestigious general course on international law at The Hague Academy and was a member of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration (which plays a key role in the selection of judges for the world court.)

Bill was a popular teacher, always filling his courses to over-capacity. He was revered as a professor in the “anti-Kingsfield” model, being one who cared about his students and who treated them with kindness and courtesy.

Bill was also, for many years, a veritable “elder statesman” for not only the law faculty but for his professional associates around the world and particularly for the American Society of International Law and the American Journal of International Law.

Our sadness is tempered only by the belief that he left us in the manner he wanted to — active to the last, and very suddenly.

Fighting child abuse
Two clinical programs at work to help protective services

Disturbing accounts of incidents of child abuse have been appearing in the news recently with alarming frequency. Late last year Newsweek cited statistics compiled by the American Humane Association indicating that official reports of child abuse and neglect have risen 223 percent nationally since 1976.

Social workers are frequently called upon to deal with the legal aspects of investigation and intervention in such cases. Yet, many caseworkers lack sufficient knowledge of the juvenile court process to work confidently and effectively on behalf of children needing protective services. In a 1978 survey of 183 Michigan protective services caseworkers, legal training was identified as the primary training need. (See David F. Gillespie, “Protective Service Worker Study,” George Warren Brown School of Social Work, Washington University, St. Louis.)

In response to this need, Clinical Law Professor Donald Duquette and other Michigan faculty associated with the U-M Interdisciplinary Project on Child Abuse and Neglect developed a training program for social workers several years ago. Through the program, nearly 400 social workers throughout the state of Michigan receive training on legal aspects of child abuse and neglect each year.

For the past two years, the training has been conducted by Lisa D'Aunno, Law School graduate (JD ’84) and clinical assistant professor in the Child Advocacy Clinic. The training sessions, sponsored by the Michigan Department of Social Services, are held periodically at various cities throughout the state. D'Aunno typically co-trains with a social worker from the state Department of Social Services and Dr. Clyde Owings, a pediatrician and associate professor in the U-M Medical School.

The training is organized into two courses. The first, Legal Aspects of Child Abuse and Neglect, leads protective services and foster care workers through the legal steps involved in non-voluntary intervention in an abusive or neglectful family. The second, Differential Diagnosis and Treatment of High Risk Families, focuses on three areas: 1) the legal limitations of investigation of suspected child abuse, 2) strategies for termination of parental rights under extreme circumstances, and 3) the growing field of protective services caseworker liability.